

In the Matter of:

Docket Number: A2012-75

RECEIVED

Geuda Springs, Kansas 67051

2011 DEC 23 P 12: 58

Billilee Paton and Shannon Wendt – Petitioners

Participant Statement:

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

We are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Geuda Springs, Kansas 67051 post office. The Final Determination was posted on October 31, 2011.

Mrs. Billilee Paton of Geuda Springs Kansas received in the mail a letter asking for a participant statement, this letter was mailed to zip code 87051, instead of 67051, therefore causing the letter which had been mailed on December 13, 2011 to arrive on December 17, 2011. The letter stated that in order for her arguments to be heard that her statement must be received by December 21, 2011. Not much time to get her statement back into you. So we are filing this brief in addition to sending the letter by mail in hopes that one or the other will make it to you on time. Says a lot for the degree of effective and regular postal services doesn't it?

Her statement is as follows:

Dear Commissioners,

1. I didn't receive my letter until December 17, 2011. It was sent to me at Geuda Springs, Kansas 87051 – Should have been zip 67051- it took this long to arrive at Geuda Springs- Someone make an error???? The mailing date was December 13, 2011.
2. We do not want our Geuda Springs 67051 closed because there are veterans and others who order medicine thru the mail. Medicine does need special care, if carrier is late or forgets it then a special trip to Oxford or now Winfield which is 46 miles round trip. The USPS knew that they would be moving all rural routes out of the Oxford office for some time before doing so on October 22, 2011, and still they continued to tell us that we would be getting our mail from Oxford. I feel like this was very misleading on the post office's part, I would go so far to say that I feel like we have been lied to from day one by the USPS in this proceeding. They continue to tell us that we need only to go to Oxford to conduct in office business, but when Oxford office is contacted they refer us to Winfield, who tells us that we must come to the Winfield office to have our mail held. Oxford has no shopping there and Winfield is some 23 miles away. Either way it is not what I would call effective.
3. This carrier never does any Postal business at the Geuda Springs, KS office; she does sell stamps and etc. on the route but does not buy replacement at the

Geuda Springs office for the Geuda Springs route. This would help to increase the revenue of our office.

4. I feel that the USPS did not take in consideration the following: what effect this will have on our community. This is one of the last remaining social outlets for us, closing it would have a harmful effect on this town. We have a number of internet businesses in town who rely on the USPS daily for the mailing of packages, the added expense and inconvenience will very much affect their livelihoods. They quoted numbers in the final determination that were unfairly stated. The Geuda Springs post office has had no postmaster in place since November of 2008, this is true, but this was not our choice it was the choice of the USPS. Therefore I feel it unfair that they include Postmaster wages and benefits in their numbers, if they would keep an OIC then they would not have to pay postmaster wages and benefits. The city also volunteered to lower the lease rate, as the post office and city building are located in the same building that would lower the costs even further. They did not take into account the income to the office in the numbers; those things to me make their numbers off by a great deal. I also feel like they did not even consider their "Misleading" statement that we would get mail from Oxford, 11 miles away, when in reality they knew full well that the mail would be coming from Winfield. If there is one thing I have learned through this process it is that the USPS has a lot of procedures to do before they do anything, so they cannot claim that they did not know of this change of routes. In all fairness if they want to close our office then they should consider 2 things, the first being curbside at the home boxes, the second being sending our route to the Arkansas City post office. They did not consider the fact that with no police here in town that mail theft is a very real possibility. The Arkansas City post office is now reporting a huge increase in mail theft from Cluster Boxes, with medications being one of the main things being targeted. This makes it even more real to us. I have to wonder if they at any point have considered not giving out thousands of dollars in bonuses to people within the USPS, I have to say I like a bonus just like anyone else but when they are closing offices to save money, it makes sense to cut those bonus payments out first. If my company was losing money like the post office there would be no bonuses, we are only asking they act like a normal company.
5. If the USPS is determined to close this office they should consider sending the route to Arkansas City, which is only 10 miles from us, a place where most of us go to work and do our business, and with the curbside boxes it would be much better for us to keep a watch for the mail carrier each day when we are expecting a package or letter that we do not want exposed to the temperature extremes of Kansas of those who feel it is okay to take things that don't belong to them.

Thank you for your time,

Billilee Paton